

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY361217
Inspection date	13 May 2008
Inspector	Tracey Marie Boland

Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Childminding

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 2007. She lives approximately four miles from the City centre within walking distance to local shops and amenities and a direct bus route into the town. The whole of the ground floor is used for minding purposes as well as the first floor bathroom and two front bedrooms. There is a securely enclosed garden at the rear of the house for outside play.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is registered to care for six children under eight at any one time and is currently caring for four children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, clean, child-friendly environment where they learn the importance of hygiene and personal care through the consistent daily routines that are followed. Children understand the need to wash their hands during the day, for example, after using the toilet, before and after food and when they have played outside. Nappy changing routines are

suitable and ensure the children's comfort at all times. The childminder maintains records of accidents and medication given to children and health records are shared with parents. However, she does not hold a valid first aid certificate which compromises children's well-being.

Children enjoy a light lunch, for example, sandwiches or a warm meal such as pizza. Fruit and yoghurts are provided and drinks are accessible at all times. Individual dietary needs and preferences are discussed with parents, recorded and respected.

Children take part in activities, which contribute to their health. They use the childminder's garden where they access a slide and swing, small trikes and a scooter. They enjoy visits to the local park where they access the climbing and play equipment. Walks are taken in the local area also.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a home where potential risks to children have been identified and minimised. Visual checks each day ensure children are able to move around the home safely and appropriate safety equipment is in place to help keep children safe, for example, a fire guard, stair gates, corner covers for low shelves and sharp knives are inaccessible. Children play in a secure, enclosed garden for outside play. They are protected from unvetted adults through the direct supervision of the childminder.

Children choose from a range of well-maintained toys which the childminder checks for suitability. Fire safety equipment is in place and maintained in working order. A fire evacuation procedure is in place. Children learn the importance of road safety when out and the childminder reinforces safety throughout the day, for example, not to climb on the furniture in case they fall.

Children are protected because the childminder has a clear understanding of her role and responsibility with regard to child abuse and neglect and is fully aware of local procedures to safeguard children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled and interaction with the childminder is good. They enjoy a range of toys and resources which are age appropriate, interesting and fun, for example, building bricks, activity toys, dolls and role play equipment. Children are supported when trying new activities as the childminder spends time with them and encourages their speech and language through play also.

Children enjoy a variety of experiences that encourage their development, for example, books, tea sets, work bench and tools, art and craft activities and board games. Children's understanding of colours and shapes when out walking and they talk about what they see. They are cared for as individuals with different needs as the childminder has a knowledge of child development and is aware of their likes, dislikes and interests.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared as individuals as the childminder becomes aware of their needs through discussion with their parents. All children have equal access to resources, however, resources that reflect positive images of race, culture, gender and disability are minimal, reducing their understanding of diversity and the wider world. Although there are no children currently attending the setting who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities the childminder is able to provide care which includes them in the daily routines through discussion with their parents.

Children learn to respect one another and are encouraged to share, take turns and be kind. House rules are in place with regard to road safety and not climbing on the furniture. Strategies for dealing with behaviour include distraction, tone of voice and discussion. Children respond well to the praise and encouragement they receive which promotes good behaviour.

Parents share information about their child's individual needs and children's sense of belonging is encouraged through a gradual settling in period. Parents' wishes are taken into account with regard to their child's care and verbal communication takes place to ensure they are kept up to date and informed about their child's day.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

All required records and documentation are in place, stored securely and within the boundaries of confidentiality. Children are cared for in a relaxed environment where the routines and procedures that are in place effectively promote their welfare, care and learning. The childminder is keen to attend further training however, she does not hold a valid first aid certificate which puts children at risk and is a breach of regulations.

Children are happy and relaxed in this homely environment and benefit from the childminder's consistent routines and organisation. Clear procedures are in place to ensure children are not left unattended with un-vetted adults and their safety is addressed at all times. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- complete a first aid course which includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- develop resources that reflect positive images of race, culture, gender and disability.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk